TRENDS

A3275-2

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 30, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 25 totaled an estimated 19.0 billion ton-miles, 12.7 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, and a weekly high so far this year, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative traffic volume for the first 34 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 609.0 billion ton-miles, 15.5 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 25 totaled 419,409, up 8.9 percent from last year, and 1.9 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 15.7 percent in the East, 7.6 percent in the South and 5.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 11 of the 21 commodity groups decreased. However, coal loadings totaled 134,384 cars, up 24.3 percent from the comparable week of 1983 and the highest individual week in nearly three years. The continuation of heavy coal loadings is attributed to stockpiling in anticipation of a possible coal miners' strike this Fall. Fifteen of the 21 commodity groups showed increases over the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 18 totaled 51,327 cars, up 10.5 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 87,200 trailers and/or containers, 7.3 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 33 weeks of the year was 1,665,222 cars, 16.0 percent higher than last year, and 2,876,493 trailers and/or containers, up 16.0 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/25/84:

	Loadings in Week ended August 25, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,934	D	87	0.3	D	796	2.7
Other farm products	2,346	D	891	27.5	D	215	9.2
Metallic ores	20,858	I	1,976	10.5	I	1,826	8.8
Coal	134,384	I	26,304	24.3	I	1,923	1.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,651	I	2,701	24.7	I	817	6.0
Nonmetallic minerals	12,630	D	29	0.2	D	64	0.5
Grain mill products	10,323	D	1,685	14.0	I	99	1.0
Food and kindred products	10,857	D	1,105	9.2	I	9	0.1
Primary forest products	13,746	D	915	6.2	I	155	1.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,673	I	200	2.7	I	433	5.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,551	D	294	2.0	I	341	2.3
Chemicals and allied products	24,928	I	1,186	5.0	D	567	2.3
Petroleum products	4,886	I	287	6.2	I	320	6.5
Stone, clay and glass products	11,475	I	13	0.1	I	200	1.7
Coke	4,873	D	887	15.4	D	237	4.9
Metals and products	7,979	D	1,023	11.4	D	246	3.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,350	I	3,298	21.9	I	1,297	7.1
Waste and scrap materials	8,950	I	894	11.1	I	185	2.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,752	D	711	8.4	I	501	6.5
All other carloads	59,085	I	5,070	9.4	I	1,921	3.3
LCL traffic	178	D	97	35.3	I	63	35.4
Total Cars Loaded	419,409	I	34,205	8.9	I	7,965	1.9
Corresponding week of 1983	385,204						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (34 weeks)	13,439,191	12,062,139	I 11.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
33 weeks ended August 18	590.0	510.6	I 15.6
Week ended August 25	19.0	16.8	I 12.7
34 weeks cumulative	609.0	527.4	I 15.5

AARt-083084